

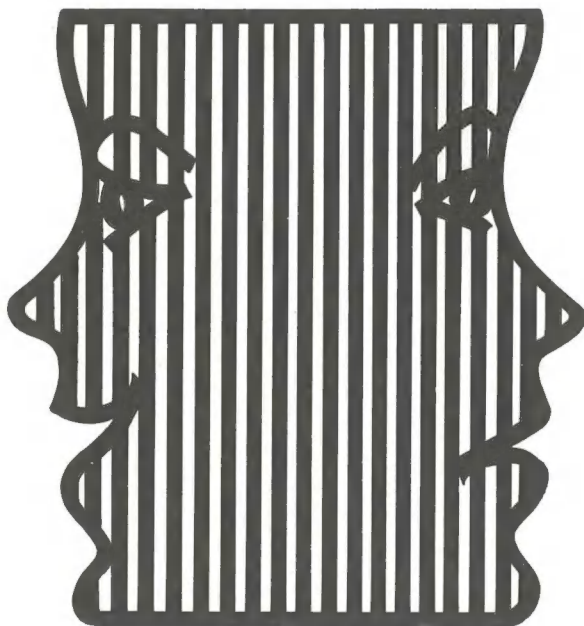
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY OF MUSIC

OPERA DEPARTMENT

# The Prisoners Play

Composed by John Rea



Libretto by Paul Woodruff

MACMILLAN THEATRE

EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING

MAY 12 – 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

MAY 14, 15, 16, 17 – 2 p.m.

Sponsored by the Canadian Opera Junior Women's Committee 1973

*Program courtesy London Records of Canada Limited*

# THE PRISONERS PLAY

## SYNOPSIS

A rehearsal is in progress for an opera about ULYSSES and CIRCE. The BOSS (Director) and PAUL (Music Coach) see that ULYSSES is properly costumed. Then they guide the singers through the opening scenes.

On his voyage home after the Trojan Wars, ULYSSES and his friends have stopped at CIRCE'S island. While ULYSSES watched the ship, the friends went into the magic forest for food and water. The first scene shows ULYSSES waiting for their return. EURYLOCHUS, one of the friends, returns to report that the goddess CIRCE has captured the other three friends, BOSSITES, POLITES, and ELPENOR. After some prodding by the BOSS, ULYSSES sets out the EURYLOCHUS to rescue his friends.

Meanwhile at her pavilion, CIRCE is holding the friends prisoners by magic. The youngest prisoner, ELPENOR, is hard at work, while CIRCE'S pupil LYDIA is busy practicing magic. When ELPENOR rebels, CIRCE puts him under a spell that makes him foolish and happy to go back to work. CIRCE tells LYDIA of her plans to capture ULYSSES and put him also to work.

When CIRCE leaves, LYDIA discovers the counterspell, the magic sentence that ELPENOR must say to free himself from CIRCE'S magic. As LYDIA urges the spellbound boy to say the sentence, ULYSSES himself arrives with EURYLOCHUS. CIRCE reappears and tries to lay a magic spell on him, but ULYSSES says the counterspell by accident, and is unharmed.

To everyone's surprise, ULYSSES and CIRCE fall in love and have a banquet, forgetting all about the prisoners.

ELPENOR saves the day by freeing himself and rescuing the rest of ULYSSES' friends. The friends are anxious to leave CIRCE'S island and start the trip home, but ULYSSES wants to stay on as CIRCE'S prisoner. CIRCE, however, has found that she wants a friend, not a prisoner. She orders him to go home, then joins him in a farewell dance. The prisoners celebrate their homeward journey with a Bacchanalian dance. As the dancing gets wilder CIRCE leaves and the magic forest disappears leaving ULYSSES and his friends on an empty stage.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....	Douglas Holder
Stage Manager .....	Fred Perruzza
Set Construction .....	David Grinstead
	Frank Galle
Property Construction.....	Yvan LaLiberte
Wardrobe.....	Carol Anne Muncaster
	Margaret Peters
	Marjorie Woodbridge
Scenic Art .....	Ed Kotanen
Electrics .....	Doug Holder
	Frank Galle (operator)
Assistants: .....	Donald Clark
Susan Eagle	Paul Frey
John Keane	Lindsay Kerrigan
Joe Smith	Allan Stewart
James Anderson	Reg Richard
Lester Muller	David Perkins

## THE PRISONERS PLAY

Conductor .....	Harvey Sachs
Stage Director .....	John Leberg
Set Designer .....	Ed Kotanen
Costume Designer .....	Carol Anne Muncaster
Lighting Designer .....	Douglas Holder

## CAST

ULYSSES .....	Bruce Kelly
CIRCE .....	Jill Pert
LYDIA .....	Diane Loeb
ELPENOR .....	Penny Speedie
EURYLOCHUS .....	Barney Ingram Jr.
BOSSITES — BOSS .....	Robert Vigod
POLITES — PAUL .....	Glyn Evans
Wardrobe Mistress .....	Carol Holder
Handmaidens .....	Debora Taylor
	Marta Middleton
Tree .....	Briane Nasimok
Stagehands .....	Technical Staff

## OPERA DEPARTMENT

*Chairman Ezra Schabes*

### *Music Staff*

Music Director .....	Ernesto Barbini
Head Coach — Conductor .....	W. James Craig
Vocal Coaches .....	George Brough, Tibor Polgar
	Michael Evans

### *Stage Directors*

Richard Pearlman  
Constance Fisher  
Herman Geiger-Torel  
Heinar Piller

### *Technical Staff*

Director .....	Douglas Holder
Assistant .....	David Grimstead
Secretary .....	Carol Anne Muncaster
Make-up .....	Alexander Szlavnic

### *Administrative Staff*

Department Secretary .....	Constance Fisher
Librarian .....	Bruce Kelly

## ORCHESTRA

### *Violin*

Fujiko Imajishi\*

Barbara Schneider

### *Viola*

Ann Armin

### *Cello*

Jennifer Jahn

### *Flute*

Virginia Markson, Piccolo

Anne Keefer

### *Musical Preparation:*

George Brough

Michael Evans

William Shookhoff

### *Oboe*

Lawrence Cherney

### *Bassoon*

James McKay

### *Piano, Celeste*

Michael Evans

Mary Nan Dutka

### *Percussion*

Allan Beard

Stewart Hoffman

Marty Frankel

\*Concert Master

## CREDITS

The Opera Department wishes to express its appreciation to the following for their assistance and co-operation.

The Chalmers Foundation

J. Fuller Lighting

National Ballet

Canadian Opera Company

Montreal Textiles

The Canada Council

Toronto Musicians Association and I.A.T.S.E.

Canadian Music Centre

Sapphire Stage Rigging

Malabar Costume House



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